

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Linda J. Sutton
Chair

Michael Flatow
Secretary

Jonathan S. Dills
Member



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

Lamar Joyner
Deputy Director

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – August 16, 2011

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was held in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room on August 16, 2011. The meeting convened at 5:25 PM, Chairman Linda Sutton presiding.

Board Members in attendance: Secretary Michael Flatow, Member Jonathan S. Dills

Board Members not in attendance: none

Staff Members in attendance: Deputy Director Lamar Joyner; Chris Duffey, Judy Speas

Selection of Officers

Past Chairman Sutton confirmed that Jonathan S. Dills pledged his Oath of Office with Susan Frye, Clerk of Superior Court, previously at the Forsyth County Hall of Justice. Past Chairman Sutton entertained a motion for selection of Chair of the Forsyth County Board of Elections for the 2011 – 2013 term of office. Motion was made by Member Flatow, seconded by Member Dills and unanimously adopted to approve that Past Chairman Sutton be selected as Chair of the Forsyth County Board of Elections for the new term. Motion carried. Chairman Sutton entertained a motion for selection of Secretary of the Forsyth County Board of Elections for the 2011 – 2013 term of office. Motion was made by Chairman Sutton, seconded by Member Dills and unanimously adopted to approve that Member Flatow be selected as Secretary of the Forsyth County Board of Elections for the new term. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Secretary Flatow and seconded by Member Dills to approve as corrected the minutes of the July 19, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

Appointment of Precinct Judges

NCGS 163-31 states that on the Tuesday following the third Monday in August of the year in which they are appointed the county board of elections shall meet and appoint precinct chief judges and judges of elections. Chairman Sutton stated that the Democratic and Republican Party lists of precinct judges had been received. Mr. Joyner and the Board members discussed the list of judges. Chairman Sutton stated that the list must be considered for approval today. By statute, the Board must supplement for any missing judges and alternate judges. Motion was made by Member Dills and seconded by Secretary Flatow to approve both the Democratic and Republican Party lists of precinct judges of elections. The motion was unanimously adopted. Motion carried. The Board discussed whether an office protocol existed that documented past complaints of precinct judges. The Board resolved to question Mr. Coffman whether records of complaints do exist and to arrange a procedure to compile the information if needed.

Approval of November Ballot

The Board reviewed all Municipal Election ballots for the 2011 November Election. Motion was made by Secretary Flatow and seconded by Member Dills to approve the 2011 November Election ballots. The motion was unanimously adopted. Motion carried.

Precinct Consolidation for November

Board members and staff discussed the consolidation of precincts for the 2011 November Election. A November 2011 Precinct/Polling Place List graph was examined that highlighted precincts to be consolidated, based on prior years voter turnout. A total of 19 polling places would be open for the November 8, 2011 Election. Discussion continued that the voters should be advised of the consolidation by mail, media advertisement and signage on Election Day. Board members stated that notification of consolidation was essential for voter participation. However, as in past elections, it is also important to be fiscally responsible with municipal expenses. Motion was made by Secretary Flatow and seconded by Member Dills to approve the Precinct Consolidation for the 2011 Election. The motion was unanimously adopted. Motion carried. Motion was made to modify the wording of the motion by Member Dills and seconded by Secretary Flatow to approve the Precinct Consolidation for the 2011 Election as long as all voters have a fair opportunity to be notified as reasonably can be done. The motion was unanimously adopted. Motion carried. Board members resolved to ask Mr. Coffman to report on the progress of voter notification of precinct consolidation for the November Election at the next meeting.

Other Business

Chairman Sutton introduced the topic of a September meeting date and time. Board members also discussed the upcoming State Board of Elections mandated annual training for County Elections Officials. A September conference would occur at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill on September 8th and 9th. Chairman Sutton requested that an email be sent confirming the hotel arrangements and training schedule. Board members agreed that the next meeting would be on September 13, 2011 at 5:30 PM. Chairman Sutton also notified members that a Campaign Finance Treasurer Training seminar was available at the Forsyth County Government Center on September 20, 2011 at 10:00 AM. Mr. Joyner reminded Board members that staff would be involved in the WSSU Freshmen Election on September 14th. The election provides an opportunity for voter registration and application for precinct officials. Chairman Sutton and the Board members discussed September as Citizen Voter Registration Awareness Month in North Carolina.

Adjournment

Member Dills moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Secretary Flatow and unanimously adopted. Motion carried.

Approved:

Linda J. Sutton, Chair

Date

Michael Flatow, Secretary

Date

Jonathan S. Dills, Member

Date

Attachments on File: Democratic and Republican Party Lists of Precinct Judges; 2011 November Election Ballots; November 2011 Precinct/Polling Place List; Mandatory Training Seminar for NC Campaign Treasurers